



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/775,831	02/10/2004	Tricia Ehlers Henry	8285/673	8184
7590 02/22/2008 Jason C. White BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE P.O. BOX 10395 CHICAGO, IL 60610			EXAMINER ELAHEE, MD S	
			ART UNIT 2614	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 02/22/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/775,831

Applicant(s)

HENRY ET AL.

Examiner

Md S. Elahee

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed on 10/09/2007 Remarks have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection which is deemed appropriate to address all of the needs at this time.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any

Art Unit: 2614

evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Kasiviswanathan** (US 6,215,857) in view of **Hentila et al.** (US 6,044,259) further in view of **Mowery et al.** (US 5,278,897).

As to Claims 1,6,11,14-17, with respect to Figures 1-3, **Kasiviswanathan** teaches a system for enabling a user to access to a voicemail service comprising:

a central office switch (Figure 2, label 210) in communication with a customer premises equipment (CPE) (Figure 2, label 200), the central office switch comprising:

a supplementary service processor, Figure 3, operative to receive a sequence of characters from the CPE, generate a check by the switch when the sequence of characters is a predetermined n-character messaging sequence, where $n < 7$, to determine whether the central office switch supports a supplementary service (Figure 3 and Col. 4, lines 40-60); and

receive a call forwarding number from the supplementary service database if the central office supports the supplementary service and the user had access to the voicemail service (Figure 3 and Col. 4, lines 40-60);

wherein the central office switch is operative to connect the CPE with a voicemail service in response to receiving the call forwarding number (Figure 3).

Kasiviswanathan further teaches that switch 210 ascertains whether Subscriber B 220 has a voice mail feature by checking VMA category 230 associated with Subscriber B 220. It clearly means that there must have a database in the system from where the switch can make a query in order to perform the check (fig.2; col.4, lines 43-47). However, **Kasiviswanathan** does not specifically teach that the database of **Kasiviswanathan** is a supplementary service database. In other word, **Kasiviswanathan** does not specifically teach to generate a query to a supplementary service database. **Hentila** teaches generate a query to a supplementary service database (fig.3; col.6, lines 10-14). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify **Kasiviswanathan** to incorporate a supplementary service database in **Kasiviswanathan**'s invention for generating a query. The motivation for the modification is to do so in order to reduce the burden on SSP to store feature code of a user by utilizing a separate database remote from the SSP for storing the feature code. Thus, the storage space of the SSP can be saved.

Kasiviswanathan in view of **Hentila** fails to teach to determine whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier. **Mowery** teaches determining whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier (col.4, lines 52-64, col.5, lines 64-68, col.6, lines 1-19). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify **Kasiviswanathan** in view of **Hentila** to determine whether the user has access to the voicemail service using a caller identifier in order to determine an authorized caller to leave the message.

Art Unit: 2614

As to Claim 2, **Kasiviswanathan** teaches the system of Claim 1, wherein the central office switch is further operative to prevent access to the voicemail service in response to a determination that the user does not have access to the voicemail service (Figure 3).

As to Claim 3, **Kasiviswanathan** teaches the system of Claim 1, wherein the central office switch further comprises a router (Col. 4, lines 48-55).

As to Claims 4,18, **Kasiviswanathan** teaches the system of Claim 1, wherein the central office switch further comprises an error handler for sending an error message to the CPE in response to a determination that the user does not have access to the voicemail service (Figure 3).

As to Claims 5,12, **Kasiviswanathan** teaches the system of Claim 1, wherein the n-character messaging sequence includes a first '*' star character (Col. 4, lines 7-21).

As to Claims 7,8,13, **Kasiviswanathan** the system of Claim 6, wherein the 3-character messaging sequence includes a first '*' star character followed by a two number sequence (Col. 4, lines 7-21).

As to Claim 9, **Kasiviswanathan** teaches the system of Claim 1, wherein the supplementary service processor further comprises a routing table for storing a call forwarding number for a user that has access the voicemail service (Col. 4, lines 14-27).

Art Unit: 2614

As to Claim 10, **Kasiviswanathan** teaches the system of Claim 1, wherein the supplementary service database further comprises a redirecting identifier for connecting the user to an error message when the user is temporarily prevented from using the predetermined n-character messaging sequence to access the voicemail service (Figure 3).

As to Claim 19, **Kasiviswanathan** teaches the computer-readable storage medium of Claim 16, wherein generating a query to a supplementary service database comprises transmitting a DVMA caller identifier from the central office switch to the supplementary service database (Col. 4, lines 40-48).

As to Claim 20, **Kasiviswanathan** teaches the computer-readable storage medium of Claim 19, wherein receiving a call forwarding number if the central office supports the supplementary service and the user has access to the voicemail service further comprises verifying whether the user identified by the caller identifier subscribes to the voicemail service (Col. 4, lines 40-48).

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Md S. Elahee whose telephone number is (571) 272-7536. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon to Fri from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2614

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Md. Shafiul Alam Elahee

MD SHAFIUL ALAM ELAHEE

Examiner

Art Unit 2614

February 18, 2008